

It's the Great Pumpkin Patch, Dale Smuin!

Written by Amber Buist, Split Mountain Youth Center

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Vernal- For six years, the youth and employees of Split Mountain Youth Center (SMYC) have had their very own pumpkin patch thanks to a very special employee, Dale Smuin. Smuin is a Youth Counselor and has worked at SMYC for the last 23 years. Each year he takes on the challenge of maintaining a garden for the center. Smuin incorporates care of the garden in his work with the youth by teaching them about planting, watering and the joys of weeding. Each year, Smuin starts the garden in the green house with a few little seeds, watering them daily and keeping them warm, before planting them outside.



This year the garden included tomatoes, lemon cucumbers, green peppers, corn, squash, zucchini and, Smuin's favorite, jalapenos. "There were so many jalapenos this year," remarked one staff, "Everyone spent a lot of time making poppers and eating them, they were yummy and HOT!" The last few years Smuin has made the pumpkin patch his priority and loves growing 60-70 lbs pumpkins. He gives them everything they need through the summer by turning and setting them up straight and is even known to talk to them.

Today there are 31 pumpkins at SMYC. Everyone enjoys watching the pumpkins grow throughout the year and looking for the biggest, smallest or the one with the most character. SMYC would like to recognize Dale for his hard work and effort he puts into the garden each year.